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INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES, AUSTRALIA, JANUARY 1984

- PHONE INQUIRIES** *for more information about these statistics*—contact Mr Trevor Allan on Canberra (062) 52 7136 or any of our State offices.
other inquiries including copies of publications—contact Information Services on Canberra (062) 52 6627 or in any of our State offices.
- MAIL INQUIRIES** *write to* Information Services, ABS, P.O. Box 10, Belconnen, A.C.T. 2616 or any of our State offices.

MAIN FEATURES

During January 1984, 33,500 working days were lost by 22,300 workers in 81 industrial disputes. This is the lowest level of working days lost and workers involved for any month since January 1978, when 30,500 working days were lost in 118 industrial disputes involving 14,900 workers.

In the 12 months ended January 1984, 1,569,400 working days were lost. This is the lowest level for a 12 month period since the 12 months ended March 1978 when 1,531,300 working days were lost.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

Previous issues of this publication have included details of the *estimated loss in wages* due to industrial disputes (as defined in paragraph 5 below). These details have now been suspended, because they do not accurately represent actual amounts of wages and salaries lost by workers involved. For a number of reasons, it is not feasible to obtain a reasonable measure of wages lost. Often wages lost in a particular dispute are made up through working longer hours after the dispute has ended. In a number of instances, resumption of work has been conditional upon there being no loss of wages by employees involved, for the duration of the dispute. Also, some workers involved in disputes may obtain work at other establishments while the dispute is in progress. In compiling data on wages lost, heavy reliance has had to be placed on an estimation of details on the basis of working days (or hours) lost and the estimated average daily (or hourly) wage or salary of the employees involved. Apart from the deficiencies described, the estimated loss in wages details were of limited applicability, as they related only to losses due directly to industrial disputes and not to aggregate losses for the economy as a whole.

Coverage

- The statistics relate only to disputes involving stoppages of work of ten man-days or more *at the establishments where the stoppages occurred*.
- The figures of working days lost relate to the losses due to industrial disputes (as defined in paragraph 5) and not to aggregate losses for the economy as a whole. Details shown in this publication refer to all disputes in progress during the reference period indicated.
- The statistics of industrial disputes are compiled mainly from data obtained from employers (both private and government) and trade unions concerning individual disputes and from reports of government authorities. Particulars of some stoppages (for example, those involving a large number of establishments) may have been estimated and the statistics therefore should be regarded as giving only a broad measure of the extent of industrial disputes (as defined).

Definitions

- For these statistics an *industrial dispute* is defined as a withdrawal from work by a group of employees or a refusal by an employer or a number of employers to permit some or all of their employees to work, each withdrawal or refusal being made in order to enforce a demand, to resist a demand, or to express a grievance.
- Workers involved* include workers directly and indirectly involved in disputes. Workers indirectly involved are those thrown out of work at the establishments where the stoppages occurred, but who are not themselves parties to the dispute.
- Differences between monthly and annual totals of workers involved can occur due to temporary cessations of stoppages that resume in subsequent months. Workers re-involved in this type of dispute are included in the monthly totals.
- Working days lost* refer to man-days lost by workers directly and indirectly involved in the dispute and figures are generally as reported by parties to the dispute. For some disputes working days lost are estimated on the basis of the number of workers involved and the duration of the dispute.
- Working days lost per 1,000 employees* have been compiled from those lost by workers directly and indirectly involved in disputes involving stoppages of work of ten man-days or more in the establishments where the stoppages occurred. Working days lost in agriculture, etc. and in private households employing staff have been excluded.
- The estimates of employees are obtained from the Labour Force survey.

Other ABS publications

- Users may also wish to refer to the following publications:
Labour Statistics, Australia, 1982 (6101.0)
Industrial Disputes, Australia (6322.0)—*quarterly and annual*
The Labour Force, Australia (6203.0)—*monthly*
- Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications, Australia* (1101.0). The ABS also issues, on Tuesdays and Fridays, a *Publications Advice* (1105.0) which lists publications to be released in the next few days. The Catalogue and Publications Advice are available from any ABS office.

Symbols and other usages

- nil or rounded to zero
- r revised

- Where figures have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

R.J. CAMERON
Australian Statistician

TABLE 1. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : AUSTRALIA

Period	Number of disputes		Workers involved ('000)		Working days lost ('000)
	Commenced in period	Total(a)	Newly involved(b)	Total(a)	
1981	2,887	2,915	1,229.1	1,251.8	4,192.2
1982	2,045	2,060	691.3	722.9	2,158.0
1983	r1,780	r1,788	r453.2	r470.6	1,641.4
Twelve months ended—					
January 1983	2,005	2,019	675.3	687.4	1,801.7
January 1984	1,754	1,781	441.9	464.4	1,569.4
1983—					
February	159	186	36.3	49.7	102.4
March	165	195	39.5	54.5	179.9
April	94	113	15.9	33.5	235.9
May	141	166	31.0	50.9	174.5
June	164	183	50.4	52.9	100.5
July	179	209	41.9	60.0	148.1
August	r192	224	r65.8	73.1	146.9
September	146	173	27.0	39.2	103.3
October	181	208	59.7	70.2	124.3
November	171	192	37.3	46.1	136.9
December	r88	r102	24.1	33.1	83.3
1984—					
January	74	81	13.2	22.3	33.5

(a) Refers to all disputes in progress during the period. (b) Comprises workers involved in disputes which commenced during the month and additional workers involved in disputes which continued from the previous month.

TABLE 2. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : INDUSTRIES, AUSTRALIA, WORKING DAYS LOST ('000)

Period	Manufacturing							
	Mining		Metal products, machinery and equipment	Other	Construction	Transport and storage; Communication	Other industries (a)	All industries
	Coal	Other						
1981	318.3	307.4	1,221.6	654.1	441.9	465.5	783.3	4,192.2
1982	525.8	157.1	241.8	333.0	231.1	296.2	373.1	2,158.0
1983	122.8	194.7	155.8	120.7	337.2	186.4	523.8	1,641.4
Twelve months ended—								
January 1983	131.8	158.9	230.6	320.0	235.5	359.8	365.2	1,801.7
January 1984	124.2	189.9	153.8	133.8	325.7	147.6	494.4	1,569.4
1983—								
February	18.4	8.9	21.8	10.4	28.7	7.7	6.4	102.4
March	16.0	2.7	29.3	11.5	45.2	4.7	70.6	179.9
April	2.8	9.2	14.9	4.3	21.4	1.7	181.6	235.9
May	16.4	5.9	4.8	10.7	15.5	9.3	111.8	174.5
June	5.3	11.4	8.1	9.2	22.9	13.8	29.9	100.5
July	8.7	22.0	17.7	16.3	29.7	(b)	10.3	148.1
August	12.1	40.1	18.8	25.3	33.4	4.8	12.4	146.9
September	9.3	50.2	8.5	11.7	12.5	3.5	7.6	103.3
October	12.3	12.2	8.6	7.3	36.6	8.7	38.4	124.3
November	17.3	13.2	13.8	8.8	60.7	3.8	19.4	136.9
December	3.1	7.0	5.5	2.4	18.4	44.4	2.5	83.3
1984—								
January	2.5	7.1	2.2	16.0	0.6	1.9	3.4	33.5

(a) ASIC divisions A, D, F, I to L. (b) Not available for publication.

TABLE 3. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : STATES : WORKING DAYS LOST ('000)

Period	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aust. (a)
1981	1,918.6	1,235.5	465.8	158.8	244.0	64.3	4,192.2
1982	961.6	368.0	509.8	66.6	162.4	61.5	2,158.0
1983	801.2	257.7	135.3	87.4	270.6	67.8	1,641.4
Twelve months ended—							
January 1983	687.1	360.7	454.9	63.5	150.3	57.9	1,801.7
January 1984	740.3	255.9	128.7	88.6	265.4	67.7	1,569.4
1983—							
February	58.2	20.6	13.0	0.8	8.3	0.5	102.4
March	83.9	24.4	15.4	28.1	25.9	1.9	179.9
April	157.5	22.0	4.6	35.1	12.4	4.0	235.9
May	128.8	19.7	5.0	9.3	6.2	5.1	174.5
June	57.8	11.7	10.7	1.0	10.4	7.0	100.5
July	86.7	15.0	19.8	1.3	21.7	3.2	148.1
August	39.6	41.8	17.1	5.5	29.4	11.7	146.9
September	17.2	11.3	19.8	3.8	32.8	14.2	103.3
October	41.1	31.2	8.9	1.0	33.3	5.9	124.3
November	38.4	8.6	10.4	0.8	62.2	12.9	136.9
December	10.6	44.5	1.9	0.6	20.7	1.3	83.3
1984—							
January	20.6	5.0	2.0	1.4	2.3	0.1	33.5

(a) Includes the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory.

CHART 1. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : INDUSTRIES, AUSTRALIA, WORKING DAYS LOST PER THOUSAND EMPLOYEES
TWELVE MONTHS ENDED JANUARY 1983 AND 1984

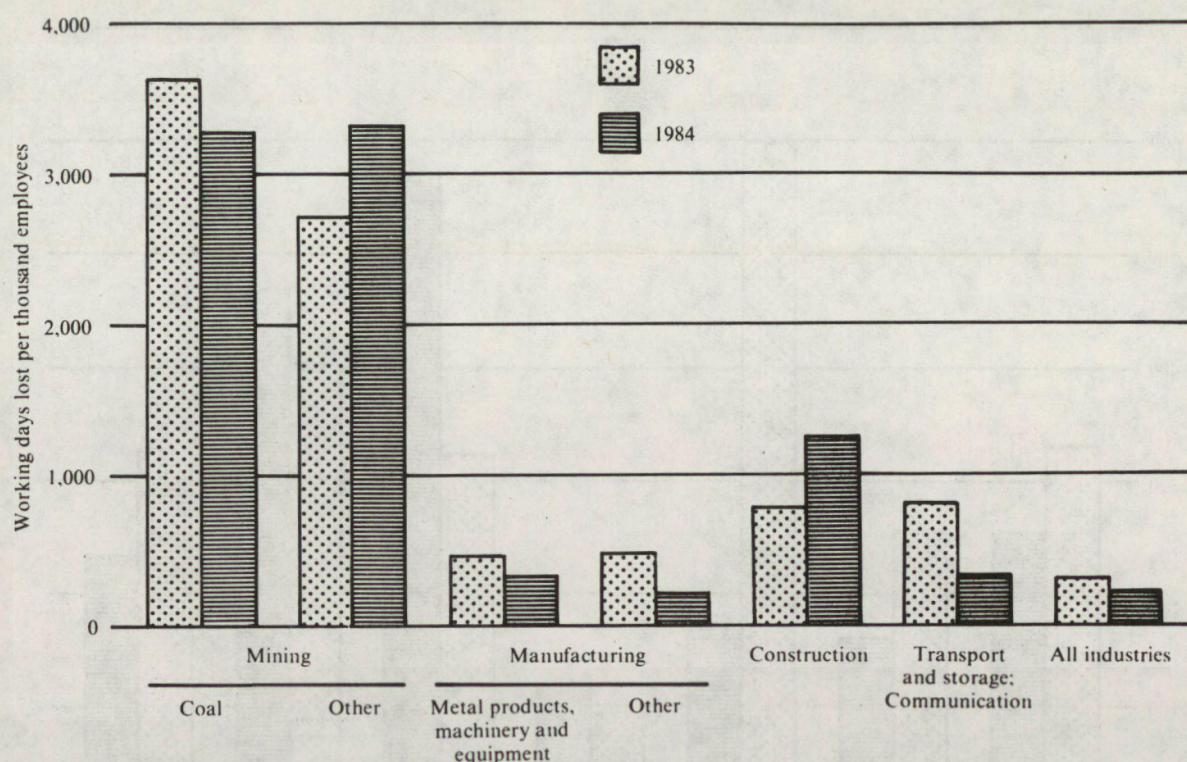


TABLE 4. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES: INDUSTRIES, AUSTRALIA, WORKING DAYS LOST PER THOUSAND EMPLOYEES

Period	Mining		Manufacturing		Construc- tion	Transport and storage; Communi- cation	Other industries	All industries (a)
	Coal	Other	Metal products, machinery and equipment	Other				
1981	10,011	5,141	2,285	989	1,423	1,104	239	800
1982	14,483	2,691	487	512	782	670	85	396
1983	3,240	3,399	348	186	1,269	1,489	142	249
Twelve months ended—								
January 1983	3,630	2,722	465	492	797	814	82	327
1984	3,276	3,314	344	206	1,226	335	42	235

(a) Excluding agriculture, etc. and private households employing staff.

CHART 2. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES: STATES AND AUSTRALIA WORKING DAYS LOST PER THOUSAND EMPLOYEES, TWELVE MONTHS ENDED JANUARY 1983 AND 1984

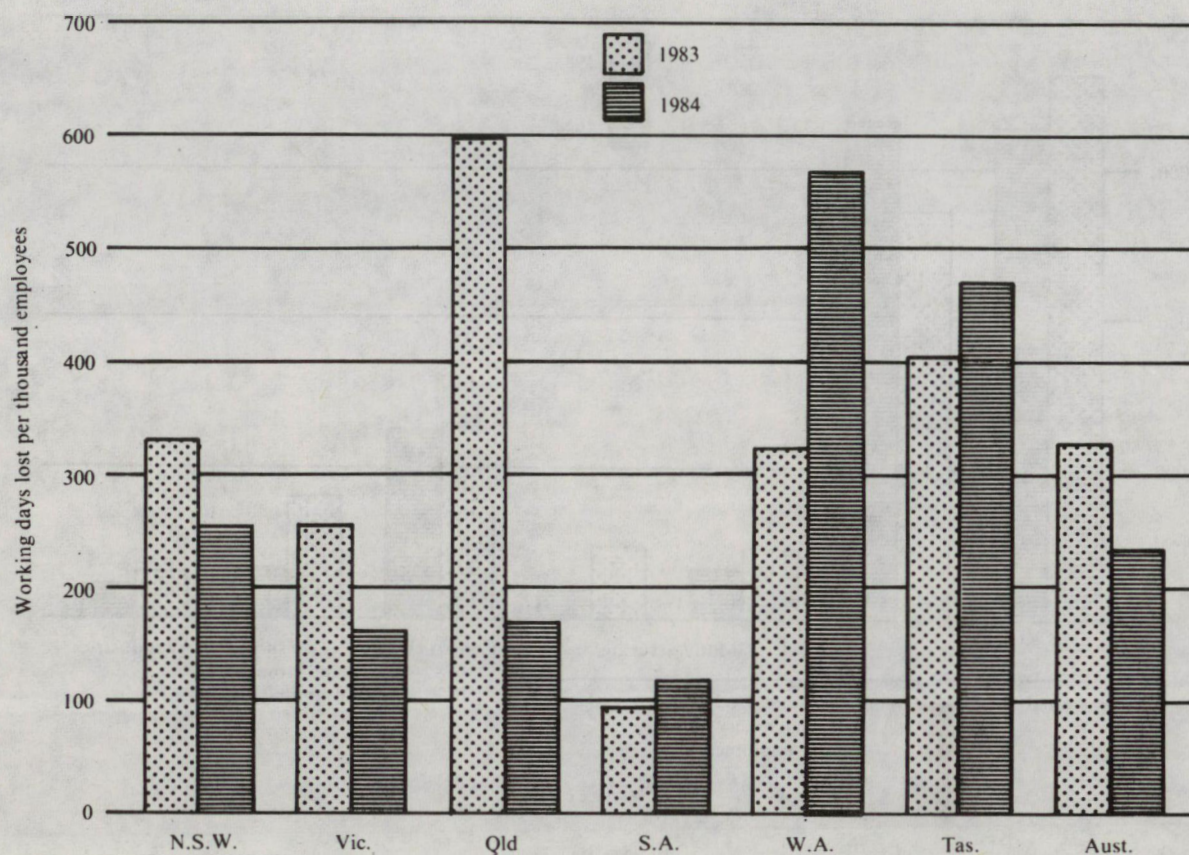


TABLE 5. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES: WORKING DAYS LOST PER THOUSAND EMPLOYEES(a)

Period	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aust.(b)
1981	1,028	865	624	320	552	456	800
1982	481	260	672	102	352	432	396
1983	288	163	178	114	581	471	249
<i>Twelve months ended—</i>							
January 1983	333	255	599	95	325	405	327
1984	254	162	169	117	569	470	235

(a) Excludes agriculture, etc. and private households employing staff. (b) Includes the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory.